

Testimony before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Testimony of Laurie Cain
Education Arbitration Board

Good day Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Laurie Cain and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Education Panel as a neutral arbitrator by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. I appreciate this opportunity to appear here before you today.

Let me begin by telling you a little about myself and my credentials. I am a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Elementary Education. After graduation, I taught at the junior high school in my hometown of Naugatuck, CT., worked as a computer programmer at UniRoyal in Naugatuck, and then earned my law degree at The Northeastern University School of Law in Boston. After I received my J.D., I was honored to be selected to clerk for the Honorable Anthony Grillo on the Connecticut Supreme Court for one year and then was hired by the Travelers Insurance Company as an Associate Counsel in the Law Department.

My career as an impartial arbitrator began in 1990 with my appointment to the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. Over the next few years, with a lot of hard work, study, and determination, I became an active member of the American Arbitration Association, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Connecticut Employee Review Board, the Department of Corrections, the Alternative Dispute Resolution, Inc., the Office of Labor Relations P2 panel, as well as the Deputy Chair of the State Board for 6 years. I am also a proud member of the National Association of Arbitrators.

In addition to my positions in the grievance arbitration arena, I am also experienced in interest arbitration; my name appears on the lists for the first and second panels for both the Teachers' Negotiations Act and the Municipal Employees' Relations Act. I am also chosen on a somewhat regular basis to conduct Teacher termination hearings in the state. I find this particular work to be very stimulating, challenging and interesting and hope to continue to enjoy it in the future.

I am a believer and advocate of the arbitration process, on both the grievance and interest sides. With a reputation as an intelligent and fair-minded neutral, I have gained the support and respect of the Unions and municipalities alike over my 25 years in the business. I try always to handle my cases in a timely manner with integrity, fairness, some humor and respect for all of the parties involved. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue my work on the Education panel.

On a personal note, I am a mother of four who is very involved with my children's lives - too involved, some of them might say! - their careers and continued schooling, and in my community. I am also very interested and involved in my own career, particularly now that three of my young have fled the nest! And that career includes serving well the Governor and the State of Connecticut in my position as a neutral arbitrator on the Education panel.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. I would be very happy to answer any and all questions that you might have. Thank you again for your time and attention.